



# NEWS RELEASE



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## **READY TO RUN™ WORKSHOP PREPS FEMALE CANDIDATES**

*Nonpartisan Workshop Designed Especially for Women Wanting to Run for an Elected Office*

Described as an innovative, nonpartisan and inclusive program to support women gaining access to leadership and public policy positions, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) and Women's Fund of Greater Omaha (WFGO) will be co-hosting a day-long workshop for women interested in running for elected office.

*Ready to Run™* is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15, 2005, at Mahoney State Park's Riverview Lodge, located at South Bend exit #426 on Interstate 80 at the Platte River. The workshop begins with a complimentary breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and adjourns at 4:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$25 and includes a networking luncheon program. Deadline for mandatory pre-registration is Wednesday, October 5, 2005. Seating is limited. Call LLWC at 441-7716 for a registration packet.

An unique networking opportunity with approximately 14 women who have served or are currently serving an elected office will be offered during the networking luncheon. Attending on behalf of Lincoln's representation will be Senators DiAnna Schimek and Carol Hudkins, Mayor Coleen J. Seng, Lancaster County Commissioner Deb Schorr, and Lincoln City Council members Annette McRoy, Robin Eschliman and Patte Newman.

Workshop topics and presenters include:

- *Making the Decision to Run*, Mary Johnson of Ruth Mueller Robak, LLC.;
- *Women Candidates, Where Are The Role Models?*, Kim Robak, keynote speaker and former state lieutenant governor;
- *Developing a Campaign Strategy*, Kathy Campbell, former Lancaster County commissioner;
- *Developing a Campaign Budget and Raising Money*, Senator Pam Brown, and
- *Making Political Connections, Making Connections Political*, Mary Barrett of The Barrett Group, LLC.

Fashioned after the original *Ready to Run™* conference held in New Jersey, the program is the product of the Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers and the State University of New Jersey. The *Ready to Run™* workshop will increase awareness of opportunities and processes for participants on a larger political scale, promote active involvement of women wanting to work in government and school districts, and create a viable support network for women entering the electoral system.

LLWC was formed in 1976 to "work toward eliminating social, economic and legal barriers that prevent women from choosing their present and future roles in the family, the labor force, education and society in general." The commission's strategic planning goal centers on Women in Leadership and Public Policy and Health Care issues.